

Merion, PA – On Wednesday, February 20, Congressman Joe Sestak presented Episcopal Academy senior Michelle Kim with the Philadelphia Inquirer Student Citizenship Award for her outstanding commitment to public service in our community. The Student Citizenship Award recognizes high school seniors who significantly exhibit good scholarship, school participation, and service to their community. — “It is my pleasure to present the Inquirer Student Citizenship Award to Michelle Kim. Michelle is an exceptional individual whose nomination for this award is a testament to her dedication to her community and school. I am positive that Michelle’s hard work and civic commitment will result in even more success in the future,” said Congressman Sestak.

Michelle Kim has demonstrated an active participation in her community as a camp counselor and role model for disabled and autistic children at Camp Barnabas. In addition to this experience, she volunteers at the Pine Reservation Indian Reservation. Michelle also found time to learn about combating mental illness during her internship at a Schizophrenia Research lab.

After the presentation of the Student Citizenship Award, Congressman Sestak spoke to students from Episcopal Academy’s upper school about his own career in public service.

“This was a great opportunity to share my experience serving our country and to encourage students to explore opportunities to help in their community. It is wonderful to see the students taking initiative to be a proactive force for change in their communities,” said Congressman Sestak. “I believe that the lessons and values of community service that these students have learned will benefit them for years to come.”

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.